

Awards: Event begins with social hour

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 “One of them is \$200 off a photography session with the Haugens, so some of the prizes are pretty darn good,” Paoli said.
 Party-goers also will have a chance to win a fine bottle

of wine in the wine spin for \$20 per spin. Paoli said wine bottles will be worth at least \$20.
 “Some of them are really fancy bottles,” she said.
 The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with social hour. Open-

ing remarks and invocation will be at 6:30, followed by the buffet at 7 and the program at 7:45.
 “My favorite part of this event is, always, getting the volunteers together that help make our community

what it is and honor them, because without them, we wouldn't be here,” Paoli said.
 The winners of six business awards and five citizen awards will be announced at the event.

City council set to discuss committee

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The Falls City City Council is scheduled to consider reauthorizing its economic development committee at its meeting Thursday.

The committee was created to plan a festival to coincide with the Aug. 21 Great American Eclipse.

A temporary committee, it officially expired in February.

It submitted its year-end progress report to the council last month, along with a request to continue working on the festival and other economic activities.

Festival activities include a community breakfast or chili cook-off, music, commercial booths, horseback riding and local housing or camping.

Committee members are exploring the possibility of creating an annual summer festival.

Without naming specific objectives, the committee requested more time to work in other develop-

ments, as well.
 “In addition to the Eclipse Festival, the committee explored various avenues of commercial development in Falls City,” the report read. “The broad scopes of these types of businesses/activities continue to be of interest to the committee, and will require a great deal of attention.”

After reviewing the report at its February meeting, the council directed Mayor Terry Ungricht to write a resolution to allow the group to continue working until March 2018. At that time, another progress report will be due.

Also on Thursday's agenda is electing a council president, discussion of leasing a new public works truck, and a discussion on how to repair streets damaged in storms this winter.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St.

For more information: 503-787-3631, or fallscity-oregon.gov.

Roadmap: Committees formed, ready

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 With that in mind, it is working on setting up a disc golf-themed “family fun day,” and later a full-scale tournament on the course in Dallas City Park.

“We wanted to take something that is already within our community and build on that. All of us agreed that we have a great disc golf course in the park,” said Tammy Noon, the co-chairwoman of the “Marketeters.” “There's also a couple of groups that do disc golf tournaments, and they do call Dallas home. We are trying incorporate all that and put together an annual tournament.”

More behind-the-scenes is the property development effort.

This team is working to make vacant or under-used commercial properties

ready for business tenants and putting owners in touch with resources, such as the city's facade grant program.

Spearheaded by co-chairmen Mike Arras and Rich Wolcott, the team is in contact with the owners of with three properties on Main Street: The former Zumalovic building next World Gym; the former Dallas Super Market; and the former Guy's Hardware store.

Dallas Mayor Brian Dalton, who is working with the team, said successes in filling those major vacancies can create a “domino effect,” making an environment where people want to do business.

Bosch noted the team needs to be especially patient and persistent.

“There are no quick fixes

there,” she said. “This is a group that has to stick to it.”

Dalton added that help may be on the way soon as the city is looking for an economic development director.

“(Dallas City Manager) Ron (Foggin) does a really good job of hiring people, and I think we are going to have a really stellar person in that job,” Dalton said. “That's going to help a lot.”

Bosch said RDI is backing away from facilitating meetings, but will still provide resources to the group when needed.

Stepping into the leadership role is a coordinating committee of chairman Scott Noon and members Tammy Noon, Guida, Nancy Adams (chairwoman of the Dallas Eco-

mic Development Commission), Wolcott, Arras and Greg Ellis (the former economic development consultant for Dallas).

JD Shinn, the chief executive officer of the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, said he's encouraged by the enthusiasm the Dallas Vitality Connection has shown so far. He said it stands in contrast to “the word on the street” since he started with the chamber in October.

“I was hearing a lot about 'there's a lot of talk and no action.' One of the things that I've been just thrilled about is that this group is proving that to be not true,” Shinn said. “There is action going on in every group, everybody's really jumped in and taken action.”

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